

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 375

By Curcio

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Stewart Builder Supply on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, the story of what would become known as Stewart Builder Supply begins with the establishment of the E.W. Stewart Lumber Company as a sawmill by Emmett Wilson (E.W.) Stewart in 1921; and

WHEREAS, during the early years of the company, the hard work of cutting logs and supplying the market was done largely by hand and with a great deal of manual labor; and

WHEREAS, in those days, E.W. Stewart and his crew worked on Turnbull Creek, near the present-day community of Burns, where, as Mrs. Stewart said, "the snakes were as big as your forearm"; and

WHEREAS, during the early 1940s, the E.W. Stewart Lumber Company began to emphasize residential and commercial construction along with retail building supplies; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, the first retail store was opened in Dickson with much fanfare, with the Stewart brothers, Murry, Billy, and Buddy—the second generation of Stewarts—making their impact on the future of the growing business; for thirty years, the emphasis was on a construction-oriented company; and

WHEREAS, the 1970s were very prosperous years for building in the Dickson County area; however, the E.W. Stewart Lumber Company made the decision to stop building and start supplying the home builder and consumer with construction supplies; and

WHEREAS, with this decision, the company continued to grow; during this period, 20,000 square feet of new warehouses were constructed, and in the fall of 1976, a new shop was opened to manufacture door units. This period led to a wider mix of products, a doubling of inventories, and E.W. Stewart becoming the largest building supply company in the area; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1985, Stewart Lumber Company expanded its operations in the Nashville area with a new location on Mallory Lane in Brentwood; and

WHEREAS, over the years, E.W. Stewart steadily grew with more locations and a truss plant, and in 2005, Stewart Lumber Company changed its name to Stewart Builder Supply to better focus on expanded inventory and services provided to the community, rather than just being recognized as a lumber yard; and

WHEREAS, with the housing market recession in the United States in the late 2000s, many building supply companies failed; however, with good decision making and perseverance, Stewart's endured by focusing on customer service and consolidating to its current three locations in Dickson, Brentwood, and Hopkinsville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to adversity, Stewart Builder Supply has survived the Great Depression, the illness and ultimate death of its founder, E.W. Stewart, the premature death of William (Billy) Stewart, and the struggles that are associated with the transfer of leadership from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, the memories of those two men and the leadership of their respective wives, "Tuart" and "Margaret D," who survived them, will never be forgotten by friends and family; and

WHEREAS, a great debt of gratitude is owed by everyone in the Stewart Builder Supply family to William T. "Bill" Stewart, son of Billy and grandson of E.W., who has led the company since returning from his freshman year at Auburn University in 1965 upon the death of his father; his leadership and lifetime of achievement are truly remarkable; and

WHEREAS, today, due to dedication and customer service from their employees, Stewart Builder Supply continues to be one of the largest building suppliers in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks 100 years in business for Stewart Builder Supply, and the company is proudly still owned and operated by the same family who took a risk 100 years ago in snaky Turnbull Creek; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the owners and employees, both past and present, of Stewart Builder Supply on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for many more years of continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.